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PATENT #7A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Hajime KUROSAWA**

Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**  
(PCT/JP99/07279)

Filed: **December 17, 2001**

For: **CHARACTER INPUT KEYBOARD**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

December 17, 2001

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fees of the above application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5 and 6 as follows:

A<sup>1</sup> 5. (Amended) A character input keyboard as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the existing ENTER/RETURN key at the extreme right of the upper and/or central row in the middle key-array is replaced by a BACKSPACE key and/or other operational key or symbol keys of high frequency.